

Salt Water

Yola Gray

I stood on the shore and waited for the tide
my lantern held high
the flame burning bright and sure.
But the tide never returned.
And though my eyes were filled with salt water
my mouth crying salt water
my belly taut and heavy with salt water
the tide never returned.

So broken and hurting
I lay down on the platform
inhaled the smoke from the fire
the smell of ava`a and mave
and watched the flame in my lantern slowly die.
My eyes filled with salt water
my mouth swallowing cries for salt water
my belly taut and heavy with salt water.